The Gift

By

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Jody Madison took the folder with her name on it back to her seat and leafed through it.

E. E. F. F. U. E. The letters stabbed like shards of ice into her heart.

She sat back, breathing heavily, as she stared around the lecture hall at her friends. Everyone seemed so happy as they made plans to meet at the pub later. How could they be happy? How could anyone be happy? Didn't they know her world had just collapsed?

Her friends approached, cheerfully, all smiles and laughter. The girls hugged her and the boys waved from a respectful distance.

"You'll join us, won't you?" said Felicity, her closest friend.

"Of course." said Jody, putting on the smile two decades of societal pressure had seen to it that she could always apply. "I just need to check something with the professor."

Felicity smiled warmly and hugged Jody. "You'll be fine. Don't worry about it."

"Absolutely." said Jody enthusiastically as her heart sank further.

Felicity and the others left. Well all except the slightly weird brunette with the glasses who always sat at the back away from everybody else.

Jody rose from her seat and approached the front of the lecture hall and her lecturer, an austere woman in her fifties with a perm that looked like it would have been old fashioned in the 80s.

Her lecturer narrowed her eyes at Jody as she approached. "Ah yes, the prodigal student returns. What is is this, the fifth time you've ever stepped foot in the lecture hall?"

"Seventh." corrected Jody.

The lecturer glared at Jody.

Jody cleared her throat. "Umm, I -I was wondering -"

"Wondering if it were possible for you to correct your grade?" suggested the lecturer.

Jody frowned and nodded. "Yeah..."

The lecturer smiled sadly. "I doubt it."

Jody implored the lecturer. "If I fail this module I'll have failed university and got into debt for nothing."

"Well look on the bright side." said the lecturer as she packed up the last of her stuff and made to go.

“Having a degree wouldn’t have made much of a difference anyway under the current job climate.”

Jody cried out desperately. “Please, I’m begging you. I’ll do anything, anything...”

The lecturer stared at Jody. The twenty year old student was tall, slim, curvy in the places society liked women to have curves, long silky blonde hair, and a face that managed to look innocent and naive despite whether dark reality lay behind those sapphire blue eyes. She chuckled. “My dear girl, you want to be very careful saying things like that to powerful people, looking as you do. Fortunately for you however I am very much a fan of the cock. Now if you’ll excuse me I’m going to go get some.”

The weird girl cleared her throat.

The lecturer smiled. “Now Sally’s a smart girl, talk to her maybe she’ll be able to help you get your grades to within the area of failure I could help you with. What do you want?”

“Thank you.” said the weird girl. “But I’m here for Jody.”

“There you are then.” said the lecturer. “There may be hope for you yet.”

The lecturer strode off as the weird girl approached Jody, her hand outstretched. “Sally Cunningham.”

“Jody Madison.” said Jody cautiously as she crossed her arms before her chest.

“Let me buy you coffee.” said Sally. “I think you want to hear what I have to say.”

“One coffee.” said Jody skeptically. “I pick the place and if you lay so much as a finger on me I’ll smash your face in.

Sally grinned. “I would expect no less.”

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Jody sat back in the wicker chair as Sally arrived with the coffee.

“Outside?” asked Sally as she set down Jody’s coffee.

“I like the sun.” said Jody as she lifted the coffee mug to her lips. She took a sip then set the mug down, a contented smile on her face. “Okay, you want to talk so talk.”

Sally sipped at her own coffee, grimaced then asked. “Why study law? You’re clearly not very good at it.”

Jody shrugged. “My sister Jamie followed her dreams. Now she works as a pole dancer.”

“Fair enough.” said Sally then she put her elbows on the table and steepled her fingers. “I learned for my own reasons, reasons that you’ll understand in time. Tell me what do you know of Sylphs?”

Jody thought for a moment, took another sip of her coffee then said. “Wasn’t Trump impeached for revealing that they existed?”

Sally nodded sagely. “His third impeachment, yeah. Do you know what they are?”

Jody puffed her face up for a moment then deflated. “Not really. I mean I got the sense from the headlines that Sylphs were sort of modern day slavery.”

Sally tutted and shook her head as she placed her palms flat against the table. “Sylphs were and Sylphs are individuals who have consented to becoming a different species so as to gain access to the different abilities said species has.”

Jody looked dubiously at Sally. “But I’m fairly certain I read something about a contract Sylphs have to sign that grants the people they choose legal ownership of them.”

Sally nodded. “And legal responsibility.”

Jody looked at Sally in a new light now as a thought occurred to her.

Sally smiled. “Don’t worry I’m not going to let you sign anything now and I have no intention of breaking our agreement.”

Jody looked like a startled rabbit. “So you admit it? Admit why you bought me coffee?”

Sally smiled warmly and raised her palms. “Just hear me out. That’s all I ask.”

Jody held Sally’s gaze for a long moment then said. “You wouldn’t say that if you didn’t think there was a good likelihood I’d say yes once I had?”

Sally grinned. “Aren’t you a clever one?”

Jody smiled despite herself. “I must be mad but I’m actually kind of interested in what you have to offer.”

Sally nodded and slapped her hands on the table. “So you see there weren’t just Sylphs. Sylphs are this kind of biological packaging designed to let a species survive through being too useful and lovable to let die. Their champion died in a war some time ago but there was another kind of people who signed similar contracts. Their champion was an entity called the Bam-Kursh, or the Toy Maker, and she mastered the art of shrinking people.”

“Shrinking people?” asked Jody. “How would that even work?”

“You don’t need to know but suffice to say it took a genius capable of rewriting reality to work out how to pull it off.” said Sally. “And my aunt was an incarnation of that genius.”

Jody grinned. She leaned over conspiratorially to Sally. “You mean you could shrink me.”

Sally grinned. “She also taught me how to read souls. Our having this conversation isn’t exactly opportunism on my part.”

Jody stared at Sally. “You mean you know...?”

Sally nodded. “That’s why I always sit apart from everyone. I like to give people privacy and it can make things a bit distracting. Particularly if people are thinking the wrong answer.”

Jody smiled. “So what are you thinking? How do you want me? When are we going to do this.”

Sally chuckled and laid a hand on Jody’s wrist as she reached for her coffee.

Jody looked into Sally’s emerald green eyes and blushed.

Sally grinned then she shook her head. “I’m sorry I promised I wouldn’t.”

“That was then...” said Jody firmly.

Sally bit her lip then sighed. “No. Perhaps with your permission I might take a few inches off, just enough to make you stumble and make a fool of yourself.”

Jody grinned but bit her lip as she gazed longingly at Sally.

“Look, I want you and if you let me I’ll shrink you and give you the works.” said Sally. “We’re talking an off switch, biological imprinting and wereshark blood so I can take a bite if I ever fancy a snack...”

“Kinky...” said Jody enthusiastically.

“And of course I’ll see that your family is well looked after. I could even offer your sister a similar deal if that was okay with you?” said Sally.

Jody grinned and laid her free hand over Sally’s.

“But I have to be honest you are just a means to an end.” said Sally.

Jody looked disappointed but curious.

“Your friend Felicity is young, gorgeous, adorable and very, very ginger.” said Sally. “I want you to set up a date for us.”

“So shrinking me is just the equivalent of getting a bouquet of flowers?” asked Jody.

Sally smirked and reached out to stroke Jody’s cheek. “I’ve already got the perfect cage for you. I even have a smart watch rigged up so you won’t get bored.”

Jody blushed. “Can I see it? The device you’ll use to shrink me I mean?”

Sally grinned and pulled out the bulky device.

Jody looked in wonder at the strange contraption, all metal and brass with cogs and gears. The barrel was unmistakable though with a strange green crystal held in position by ornate gold plated finery.

“Don’t look directly at the beam when it’s firing.” said Sally. “Wouldn’t want you to go blind now

would we?”

“At least not until my eyes can regrow.” said Jody with a chuckle. “So what do I do? I mean I can’t imagine taking legal possession of another person is exactly easy.”

Sally smirked. “You’d be surprised. We can read soul’s after all. Just write out a letter saying you consent that I own you and I’ll do the rest.”

Jody grinned. “Okay then... I’ll do my bit and I’ll text you tonight with the details.”

“Thank you.” said Sally appreciatively then she hefted the strange device in her arms. “You may not notice anything happening at first but that’s because I want Felicity to see you shrinking before her very eyes.”

Jody giggled then a funny feeling passed over her, as if she’d been caught in a sudden heatwave that passed in a moment.

A thought occurred to Jody and she asked. “Did you know I was going to fail this module.”

“Yes.” said Sally simply as she stowed her device.

“Could you have helped me pass it?” asked Jody.

“Yes.” said Sally.

“I’m glad you didn’t.” said Jody with a smile as she rose from her seat.

“Take your coffee.” said Sally as she handed Jody a wad of cash. “And get Felicity blind drunk. I want her to look back on tonight’s events with the kind of cold clarity only a hangover can bring. And well, you might as well enjoy your last night as a free woman.”

Jody giggled as she rammed the cash down her bra then she took the coffee and walked away.

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Jody entered the pub, her clothes already looser than she liked, her feet aching from newly rubbing against the sides of trainers that were no longer such a snug fit.

Felicity rose to embrace her from where she was sitting with the others. “Hey, what’s up?”

Jody grinned and whipped the cash out from her bra. “Get me a double Jack and Coke and one for yourself.”

Felicity started to count the money silently then sighed. “You can’t have Jack on an empty stomach.”

“Then get me some chips.” said Jody. “I got the money.”

“Alright.” said Felicity dubiously. “But sit down.”

Jody headed to the table and her friends made space for her.

Felicity arrived with the drinks then sat beside Jody at the table.

“Hey, Flick, you got me my drink. Thankee.” said Jody.

“The chips are coming. I don’t want to see you touch your drink until you’ve eaten at least 5 chips.” said Felicity sternly.

Jody chuckled.

“I’m serious.” said Felicity.

Jody shrugged. “I gotta finish my coffee anyway.”

Felicity gave the cash back to Jody and hissed. “There’s at least a hundred here. Where did you get this?”

Jody sighed. “My loan came through okay.”

“And you decided to withdraw a hundred in cash, what is wrong with you?” asked Felicity. “That’s supposed to last you until May.”

“Well considering I’m going to fail this module I really don’t suppose it matters much.” said Jody.

“What?” asked Felicity.

Jody pulled her results from her bag and placed them on the table.

Felicity read the results with increasing horror and sadness until at last she set aside the results and embraced Jody. “I am so so sorry. We’ll find a way to fix this, I promise.”

Jody smiled sadly. “I’m meeting Sally tomorrow, she asked me to bring you along. Would you?”

“Of course.” said Felicity. She squeezed Jody extra tight then kissed her on the cheek.

Jody looked to Felicity and blushed. “Oh, I never knew you cared.”

“I love you.” said Felicity sadly. “I always have. I hope that isn’t a problem.”

Jody shook her head then kissed Felicity on the lips.

Felicity rose from the table.

Jody grabbed her arm and asked. “Where are you going?”

“To get the finest wines in the land because tonight my princess you deserve to get rat arsed.” said Felicity.

Jody grinned. “Slay me a giant, oh brave sir knight.”

Felicity chuckled. “I’ll see what I can do.”

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Jody slunk out of Felicity’s bed while she was still asleep and freshened herself up in the bathroom. She tried to put on her clothes but she was already a good half a foot shorter so she raided the clothes of Felicity’s niece who had stayed round recently. They were a little tight at first but Jody was certain they wouldn’t stay that way for long. Sure enough by the time she was back in her own apartment the clothes were hanging loose and the shoes were rubbing against her feet.

Jody scrambled for a pad of paper and a pen, half wondering if she’d even be able to make it to the meeting. The thought made her giggle so she sent off a text to Sally saying that if she didn’t show it was because she was too small to reach the handle and Sally was to come collect her. She also sent Felicity a text to say she might be running late so Felicity wouldn’t get suspicious if she didn’t show.

As Jody wrote the note giving Sally ownership of her she reflected on the strangeness of sex while shrinking. For a while Jody’s arousal had kept pace with her shrinking, causing Felicity to get confused and think she was doing something wrong. Then at last the arousal outstripped the pace of the shrinking and a great night was had by all.

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Felicity woke that morning with a hangover that felt like the council was using a jack hammer on her frontal lobes. The first thing she remembered was kissing Jody and running her hand through that luscious golden hair, then the taste of Jody’s lips and the feeling of her bare hips beneath her hands.

Then she remembered Jody’s results and the meeting, the way Jody had acted drunk even before her first sip of alcohol, how she’d staggered about at and her usually tight and tiny clothes seemed to hang like a tent about her slender frame.

Felicity’s mind started working like some vast clockwork mechanism that had been set into motion. Then she remembered that wad of cash. Even if Jody was spending madly in some nihilistic splurge to drown herself in alcohol, the pub accepted cards so it would actually take more planning and forethought to do something so stupid, not less. Then Felicity remembered the coffee, indicative of a meeting Jody had just before, after all why stop for coffee if Jody was only going to blow it all at the pub?

Felicity found Jody’s underwear on the bed and noted that some of her niece’s clothes were missing, particularly a pair of shoes two sizes smaller than Jody’s. Her mind worked faster.

Felicity checked her phone and saw the text from Jody. Why message that she was running late. Jody hadn’t shown up for class, that was why she failed the module. Why would Jody bother to text Felicity.

“Because it is very important to Jody that I meet with Sally.” decided Felicity at last as she fetched her coat.

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Jody woke to find Sally sitting at her desk.

“Don’t look at my porn!” cried Jody.

Sally turned in her seat and smiled wryly at Jody.

“I mean, umm... Please don’t look at my porn, Mistress.” said Jody hurriedly then she was about to get out of bed when she remembered that she was naked.

Sally reached out and squeezed Jody’s hand. “Don’t worry, I was just taking the opportunity to post to your social networking websites that you’re going on a detox retreat away from the internet so you’ll be incommunicado for a few weeks. Give us some time to get everything in order.”

Jody breathed a sigh of relief. “Oh...”

Sally rose from the chair and went to sit at the end of Jody’s bed. “I’ll pack up your room tomorrow, that is if you still want to go through with this.”

Jody grinned and sat up in bed, being sure to pull the covers about herself.

Sally chuckled. “You don’t need to cover yourself up you know? I’ll be owning you soon enough and little pets don’t need clothes.”

Jody blushed. “I’m sorry, Mistress, this is just all so new and what if somebody else sees me?”

“You’ll be pleased to know that I’ve stabilized your size, You won’t shrink further until I will it.” said Sally. “And I’ve bought you some clothes. Get dressed we’ll be meeting Felicity soon.”

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Felicity met Sally and Jody at Jody’s favourite coffee shop. Sally wore jeans, a tshirt and a tight purple leather jacket. Jody wore flip flops, a short pink skirt and a tight white shirt. Jody had shrank to five feet in height.

“I understand Jody gave you the impression this meeting was about helping her get her grades up.” said Sally.

“And I understand that Sally was paid money by you yesterday to arrange a meeting for the two of us and that somehow she has been shrinking.” said Felicity.

“Clever girl.” said Sally. Then she slid a piece of paper over to Felicity. “Tell me, what do you make of this.”

Felicity read out what was on the paper. “To whom it may concern, I, Jordan Pauline Madison, being of sound mind and body do hereby grant legal and spiritual ownership of myself and all my possessions to the legal entity known to me as Sally Cunningham and whom I am sure you have already heard from. The consent I hereby unconditionally give to this entity for perpetuity includes but is not limited to

consumption, branding, destruction, reproduction, manipulation, gifting, selling, hurting and using. What rights I may unwittingly retain I shall waver if I cannot grant them to the aforementioned legal entity."

Felicity folded the paper and glared angrily at Jody. "What have you done?"

Jody shrugged. "She made me an offer I could not refuse."

"But you could have become mine?" said Felicity heartbroken.

"And she still can." said Sally firmly.

Felicity looked Sally nervously. "How?"

"I can gift her to you." said Sally.

"Why would you do that?" asked Felicity.

"You're a smart girl you work it out." said Sally.

Jody smiled at Felicity encouragingly.

"Because you can read souls. If you can shrink Jody then you must be able to read her soul as well right?" asked Felicity. "And if you've read her soul then you'd know that Jody has fantasised about being shrunk her whole life. That she'd spent her whole life becoming the perfect toy girl, just waiting for the right prince to take advantage of her. You could have taken her the moment you set eyes on her but you didn't."

Sally smiled.

"Because she's the bait. The pretty little girl getting everyone to fall in love with her and all the while you know that at the slightest pressure she'll cave to your will." Felicity smiled, proud of her deductive skills then she frowned. "But if you're so smart you didn't give Jody that coffee mug and cash by mistake. You wanted me to see, you wanted me to work it out. You wanted me to come along knowing just what you are capable of."

Sally nodded. "My aunt gave the first toy girl three chances to walk away. I don't have the advantage of being able to pick from the multiverse, I have to work with what I'm given so I'm not going to offer you three chances. I need more time than that."

"How much more time?" asked Felicity.

"I'm not actually sure." said Sally. "But shall we say till death do us part?"

Felicity smiled awkwardly. "Sally I'm not-"

Sally raised a finger to her lips.

Felicity fell silent.

“I’m not asking you to do anything or anyone you don’t want to do.” said Sally. “You can be with whoever you like. I just need unlimited access to you. You’ll be able to veto anything and everything. I just want to know that I can ask you for whatever I wish to do with you and you’ll hear me out.”

Felicity nodded. “Okay and what do I get in return? Besides Jody of course.”

“To be staggeringly rich and privileged.” said Sally. “At least until I decide you’re ready to be mass produced and sold.”

Felicity burst out laughing.

Sally held her gaze silently.

Felicity fell silent and said nervously. “You’re serious, aren’t you?”

“I learned from the best.” said Sally. “When the time comes you will consent to all I ask.”

Felicity smiled despite herself at the incredulity and gall of the woman before her.

Jody nodded. “I was the same way.”

Felicity looked at Jody and sighed. “Fine, I’ll marry you and while I accept that I may find myself consenting with everything you ask I reserve the right to deny consent to anything and everything.”

Sally nodded then she caught the attention of a waitress and asked. “Can we get a chocolate sundae over here please.”

When the waitress had left Felicity asked. “Feeling hungry are we?”

“In a sense.” said Sally then she looked to Jody and said. “Why don’t you take a seat on the edge of the table?”

Jody grinned, rose from her hair and hopped up onto the table.

“I keep my promises.” said Sally as she hefted a strange device between her hands and pointed it at Jody.

Jody giggled. “Shrink me, Mistress.”

The device whirred into life and Felicity watched in horrified fascination as Jody shrunk to a foot in height.

The waitress arrived with the chocolate sundae as Jody squirmed beneath her shirt.

“Can we get some chocolate sauce?” asked Sally.

The waitress left the table.

Sally cleared the shirt from over Jody then laid her left hand down on the table.

Jody clambered up onto Sally's palm.

Sally lifted her up in the air then stroked her. "We'll get you tagged tomorrow, little one."

Jody giggled.

"It's amazing." said Felicity.

The waitress arrived as Sally lowered Jody's shrunken naked form into the chocolate sundae.

Jody squeaked. "It's cold."

The waitress blanched and dropped the pot of warmed chocolate sauce.

Sally caught the pot and started drizzling the heated chocolate over Jody.

Jody moaned with delight and opened her mouth wide to gobble up the chocolate sauce.

"How old are you?" asked Sally without looking from Jody.

"Twenty three." said the waitress.

"Do you like your job?" asked Sally, looking to Felicity now.

The waitress shook her head as she stared at Jody.

Felicity looked at the waitress and chuckled. A beautiful brunette who would make a fine addition to any mantlepiece.

"Then take a seat." said Sally, looking to the waitress at last. "Because Jody could do with someone her own size to fuck and I have space in my travel case for two."

The waitress took a seat and said. "I don't even know how this is possible."

"You don't need to." said Felicity as she pulled out a pad of paper and a pen.

The End